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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6884

BILL NUMBER: SB 491

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Veteran's Burial Allowance.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Becker

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides that members of: (1) the Coast Guard; and (2) the merchant marine during World War II; are eligible for a burial allowance of up to \$1,000.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: Under the bill, a member of the: (1) Coast Guard, or (2) merchant marine who served during World War II, and the member's spouse, would be eligible for a burial allowance of up to \$1,000. Under current law, members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and their spouses are eligible.

The Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) reports that counties fund burial allowances from different sources; however, the large majority of counties pay burial allowances from the county general fund. County burial allowance amounts are set by ordinance, thus, differing from county to county. However, the IDVA reports that approximately 80% of counties pay a burial allowance of \$100. Information is not available pertaining to the number or amount of burial allowances previously paid by counties.

The Defense Manpower Data Center reports that there are approximately 475 active-duty Coast Guard and 750 persons separated from the Coast Guard in Indiana, totaling 1,225 members who would be eligible under the bill. An additional unknown number of Coast Guard members and their spouses would be eligible for the burial allowance in the future. This number is likely not significant; active or reserve components of the Coast Guard represent less than 1% of total active-duty personnel serving. The number of merchant marines who fought during World War II currently residing in Indiana is not known.

County commissioners are responsible for approving or denying additional claims for burial allowances under the current statute.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: Timothy Powers, Defense Manpower Data Center; Tom Applegate, Indiana Department of Veterans' Affairs.

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